

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK

THE PARIS CONFERENCE

American members at the Conference will wear a bow of red, white, and blue which will be furnished them by the Secretary.

Hotels recommended (in addition to those already mentioned) are:

Hôtel de la Minerve, 22 Rue de la Chaise, rooms 3 to 6 francs a night, petit déjeuner 1f., other meals 2f. 50c.

Villa de Dames, 77 and 79 Rue Nôtre Dame des Champs, rooms 4 to 6 francs, double-bedded rooms 6f. 50c. to 8f. 50c. Meals the same, en pension 8 to 10 francs a day.

Hôtel de Calais, Rue des Capucines (very central), about 12 francs a day.

Hôtel Montaigne, 28 Rue Montaigne, about 10 francs a day.

Double-bedded rooms cost about two-thirds for two persons.

To repeat the notice already given, the Secretary, Miss Dock, may be reached by mail via Brown Shipley Co., 123 Pall Mall, and the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, 431 Oxford St., will receive inquiries at all times. Our members of the English Societies and of the Irish Nurses Association are going in such numbers, and including women of such distinction, that nothing else, beside the participation of the French leaders, could be necessary to make the meetings a success, yet furthermore we shall have the great satisfaction of greeting numbers of our German sisters, and representatives from Holland, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, Italy, from Canada, and, possibly, Belgium and Turkey. Miss Keith-Payne, one of the Councillors, is coming from New Zealand.

SOME SPANISH HOSPITALS

MISS REBECCA SHATZ, one of the members of the Nurses' Settlement in New York, who is now abroad, has visited some of the Spanish hospitals, and writes concerning her visit:

"The hospital of San Juan di Dios in Granada is a very old one.



A balcony in hospital of San Juan di Dios (Granada).

having been founded some four hundred years ago, and the building now occupied is the original one. Connected with the hospital is a free medical college, the only one of its kind in Spain. I enclose two photos of the court of the hospital, from which you can see the characteristic style of construction of Spanish buildings of almost every kind. All the wards open off the court, and broad balconies on all sides afford a fine place for the patients to get sun-baths. In San Juan we found little evidence of an attempt at cleanliness or order; there are no sanitary arrangements, and no bath-rooms. We saw no bed-pans at all, but on the shelf by each patient's bed stood a *pot de chambre*, and next it the patient's dishes. We came upon only one sister in our tour of the hospital, and most of the work is done by ignorant servants. There were five hundred patients in the building, the most common diseases being tuberculosis and ophthalmia. The tubercular patients are in the general wards and are kept for an indefinite time, San Juan's being the city hospital. We went there on Sunday morning, evidently during visiting hours; children of every age were visiting their mothers, and the younger ones were seated on the beds of the patients eating all kinds of food brought with them, and much of it was scattered over the beds.

A great contrast to San Juan's was the large civil hospital at Seville. That, too, is a very old building, but there have been alterations to make it more up to date. It accommodates some seven hundred patients, and is situated just beyond the walls of the city upon a large tract of land, and upon the grounds are raised all vegetables used in the hospital. There is a regular farm run in connection with the institution and some of the work is done by the convalescents and chronic patients. The building was clean, the wards were large and sunny, and though we saw many primitive methods, there were evidences of progress, and attempts to have and use modern appliances. There were bath-rooms, and one of them fitted up with apparatus for giving all kinds of hydro-pathic treatment; also medical and surgical wards, the tuberculous patients being in wards set apart for their use. The operating room was well fitted up with modern appliances, sterilizers, etc. The instruments, however, are still kept in leather cases, labelled on the outside, and these are placed in the glass cases.

While in the male surgical ward a patient was brought in, an old man, with fractured femur. The stretcher was borne by two porters and followed by the house staff, one of whom was slipping into his white gown as he came along. The stretcher was placed in front of a bed, and the patient surrounded by visitors and convalescent patients while the doctor examined the injured member. No nurse or sister was

present, nor did one appear during our stay in the ward. After a while the patient was lifted upon the bed—needless to say there was no special method in the process—and being placed there the doctor, in presence of patients and visitors, attempted to set the bone. The two porters held the patient down in the bed by main force, while the doctor tried unsuccessfully to reduce the fracture. There was nothing in the way of splints and bandages at hand to apply after the treatment, and when the doctor left the patient, he lay there on the bed with no further attention while we were in the ward. We saw one sister on duty in one of the wards, but she was busy praying before an altar in the centre of the ward assisted by three convalescent children.

Dr. S. told me that the physicians are obliged to do almost all the work that in most hospitals is done by the nurses. We were much impressed by the abundance of sunlight in all the wards. The building has seven large open courts, with wards built around them, and each one is supplied with a very wide balcony, that makes it possible for the patients who are out of bed to be in the sunshine almost the entire day.

The kitchens were models of order, and the sister-in-charge showed us the dinner that was being prepared. The allowance of food seemed very generous, and certainly the patients appeared to be happy and contented. Judging from his gentleness, and his sympathetic manner with the patients, we were not at all surprised to find that Dr. S. seemed to be a great favorite.

We visited while in Seville the Civil Foundling Asylum, an institution in charge of the Sisters of Vincent St. Paul. It was immaculate in its cleanliness. The children were clean and well cared for, the little cribs looking attractive with the snowy white muslin curtains and the linen sheets, all hand embroidered. Every baby wore a woolen shawl or jacket and a little white bonnet, and were tucked so tightly in their beds that they seemed to have little room to move. The babies' bathroom was interesting to us: in the centre of the room was a great circular slab of marble in which were hewn out quite a large number of basins, big enough to use as bath-tubs for the babies. The older children have a very nice lavatory and opposite the wash-basins were hooks, numbered, and holding the towels of each child. The children are kept in the asylum until they are six years old and then sent to schools, where they learn some trade. I tried to find the picture of San Juan di Dios that you asked for but the only one I succeeded in getting is a photo of the painting of Murillo's San Juan, which hangs in the Cariamada in Seville. He is represented as carrying a sick man to the hospital,

and as staggering beneath his burden when an angel appears and assists him."

Beside the hospital news a bit of Miss Shatz's letter relating to travelling acquaintances is peculiarly interesting at this moment, when every day may be fateful for the Russian people. She writes:

"Our Russian prince grows more interesting on acquaintance. He has a great fund of stories and of course has had interesting experiences. He told me the other day that he is thirty-three years old and until three years ago he lived the life of a Russian prince with no idea of the life and suffering of other classes. But there came the awakening, and his sympathies were so aroused that he endeavored in every way *within the limit of the law* to work for the people who were being persecuted. He is an I.L.D. and devoted himself to defending the political and other prisoners whom he felt ought to be more justly defended. This brought him under suspicion, and he was twice arrested. He escaped once, but the second time he was confined for four months and finally sentenced to go to northern Siberia. His health was in a precarious state and his influential friends and physicians persuaded the court that the exile to Siberia would be certain death, and since he was a prince the court might be criticized. He would probably die soon, so they might let him go to a foreign country, and, if he died there, the Court would not be blamed. So, after a sojourn in Switzerland, he came to Capri. He is writing a book and Gorky, who lives near by, is his critic. He told us how, in his work in the judicial courts, he came into contact with many splendid people; how he was overcome with a sense of shame at his years of culpability to have aided, though unwittingly, in the persecutions of his fellow-men. He was sad to think that according to the law he did absolutely nothing that he was not privileged rightfully to do, and yet he is condemned to be in exile."

The little "Yellow Pamphlet" of the *Hospital* magazine is being circulated widely in all countries; some persons, indeed, receiving two or three. The comments made upon it in America express disgust and amazement, for it is without a doubt a piece of vulgar villainy. As many of its recipients are at a loss to understand its *raison d'être*, it may be explained that it is only a piece of personal animosity. The *Hospital* cares nothing about the Paris Conference, neither does it admire American organization. It simply hates Mrs. Bedford Fenwick because she has always perceived and exposed its attempts to "lasso" the nursing profession, and because she is not afraid of it and never has been. This

hatred began as far back as the first days of the Hospitals Association. It pursued the Royal British Nurses Association in the same virulent spirit. It is quite a question in ethics whether any woman should subscribe to a paper which has so consistently vilified the organization of women, and which has hounded the women who lead organization in England.

The Second International Congress on School Hygiene is to be held in London in August. The work of the Public School Nurse certainly should be recognized at this Congress, and we suggest to the officers of the Congress that they give it a place in their discussions. It has been amply proved that, while physicians can instruct and inspect, and while teachers can teach hygiene, the only way to get practical results in schools and among school children is to have the nurse in the schools.

Sixty-two women have been elected poor law guardians in London in the recent elections. The women of Great Britain who love justice are naturally deeply indignant over the base tactics employed to defeat the Women's Suffrage Bill in the present session. Such tactics, however, must kill themselves eventually. The coming of women into politics, says Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., would eventually mean a new civilization. In Finland, nineteen women have just been elected to the Finnish Diet or National legislature—a glorious fact—let all women note it well. This is the first election held in Finland since women received full suffrage, and this is the first time in the history of the civilized world that women will sit in a national parliament.

The *Missionary Link* has the following editorial:

Among the significant ideas promulgated at the last National Congress of India are the following: "Let the repressive features of the caste system go. Let popular primary education, intellectual and industrial, be promoted with all possible rapidity, with a view to the elevation of the depressed classes. Let child widowhood and early marriages and other injurious and burdensome practices be abandoned. Let all friends of the family and the country, without respect to creed or race, join in driving the drink curse from the land. Let India press forward in all that goes to make her people truly great. Then will she move forward in the purposes of God, to whatever good He has ordained."

THE Missions of the Woman's Union Missionary Society include the following hospital stations:

Jhansi: Mary E. Ackerman-Hoyt Hospital and Dispensary. Address: Mary S. Ackerman-Hoyt Hospital. Fatephur: Address: Miss E. H. Todd. China: Shanghai: Margaret Williamson Hospital and Dispensary. Address: Medical Missionaries, Margaret Williamson Hospital, West Gate. Hospital supplies are always gratefully received.



It is interesting to note that just as inferior human races have never been without remedies for wounds and general ailments, so we learn that the members of the animal kingdom have been no less skillful in practising surgery and medicine. When suffering from parasites, they adopt curious methods, such as the use of dust, mud, clay, etc., to get rid of their implacable foes. Similarly, if they suffer from fever, they prudently restrict their diet, keep quiet, seek shades of darkness, or choose airy places, drink water, and sometimes plunge into it with the utmost eagerness. Most instinctively do they choose the right kind of food according to their changing conditions. An animal suffering from rheumatism always keeps as far as possible in the warmth of the sun. The scientist Latreille cut the antennæ of an ant, and discovered that other ants came and covered the wounded part with a transparent fluid secreted from their mouths. If a chimpanzee is wounded it stops the bleeding by placing its hand on the wound, or dressing it with leaves and grass. If an animal has a wounded leg or arm hanging on, it completes the amputation by means of its teeth.—*Leeds' Mercury Supplement*.

SOME one asked the doctor's little girl what church she belonged to and she said: "My mother is a Presbyterian, but my father is a stomach-specialist."